NPAs by way of upgradation, compromise, write-off and actual cash recovery. However, due to fresh slippages the gross NPAs of the bank as on 30th September, 2001 was Rs. 1,088.24 crores.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that Punjab & Sind Bank has projected to reduce its gross NPAs to Rs. 984.69 crores as on 31st March, 2002.

Amount collected under small savings schemes

†2361. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected so far this year under the small savings schemes in comparison to the last three years together with the scheme-wise amount likely to be collected up to the end of current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that less amount is being deposited by people in these small saving schemes due to reduction of rate of interest in these schemes by Government; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) (I) The gross small savings collections during the current financial year (upto October, 2001) *vis-a-vis* during the same period of previous three financial years are as under :

(In Crores of Rupees)

Year	Gross Collections
2001-02	47814
2000-2001	47477
1999-2000	40328
1998-99	34800

(II) Estimated gross small savings collections during November, 2001 to March, 2002 are Rs. 45936 crore. Scheme-wise break-up is not available.

Valuation Cell of I.T. Department

2362. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the valuation cell attached to Income-Tax Department remained unutilised to 79 per cent in the year 1999-2000 and the percentage of non-utilisation is on increase from 56 per cent in 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the valuation cell does not maintain records as asked for by Central Board of Direct Taxes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per the existing norms, the Valuation Cell is being utilised. Statistically speaking, the Valuation Cell may appear unutilised. However, the statistics quoted by the Hon'ble Member have to be appreciated in proper perspective. The fact that a Valuation Officer has not been able to dispose off his required number of cases (despite adequate workload being available with him) does not mean that his capacity remains unutilised. The shortfall in reaching the targeted quota of number of cases is attributable to various factors, like the nature of cases being complicated requiring additional time, lack of infrastructural facilities lack of co-operation on the part of assessees in providing of details, etc.

(b) In general, the Valuation Cell is maintaining all records as asked for by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. However, it may happen that in some branches of the Valuation Cell some of the records are not maintained/not maintained properly.

(c) and (d) Appropriate instructions are being issued to the Valuation Cell to ensure compliance with the existing instructions regarding maintenance of records.

Record of assessees availing Income-tax exemptions

2363. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-Tax Department has to maintain records in respect of assessees who are availing exemptions and deductions in respect of export of computer software;

(b) whether the realisation and bringing back the export profits in convertible foreign exchange under the requisite provision can not be verified in the absence of records;

(c) if so, the reasons for not maintaining the records; and